

**What is claimed is:**

1. A system, comprising:
  - a database storing a plurality of objects; and
  - a computer-based document management module adapted to:
    - create a source document comprising the plurality of objects; and
    - automatically and individually control a content, a plurality of content attributes, a usage permission, and a distribution permission of each of a plurality of objects in each of multiple documents derived from the source document.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein said document management module is further adapted to define a content, a plurality of content attributes, a usage permission, and a distribution permission of each of the plurality of objects of the source document.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein said document management module is further adapted to prevent modification of a content, a plurality of content attributes, a usage permission, and a distribution permission of each of the plurality of objects of the source document.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein said document management module is further adapted to publish the source document.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein said document management module is further adapted to generate a derived document from the source document.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein said document management module is further adapted to derive each of the multiple documents from the source document.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein said document management module is further adapted to propagate the content, plurality of content attributes, usage permission,

and distribution permission of the source document to each of the multiple documents derived from the source document.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein said document management module is further adapted to prevent modification of the content, plurality of content attributes, usage permission, and distribution permission in each of the multiple documents derived from the source document.
9. The system of claim 1, wherein said document management module is further adapted to determine an identity of the source document from each of the multiple documents derived from the source document.
10. The system of claim 1, wherein said document management module is further adapted to perform a bi-directional comparison of the source document and a derivative document derived from the source document.
11. The system of claim 1, wherein said document management module is further adapted to perform a bi-directional comparison of a first derivative document derived from the source document and a second derivative document derived from the source document.
12. The system of claim 1, wherein said document management module is further adapted to language-independently search the database.
13. The system of claim 1, wherein said document management module is further adapted to generate an auxiliary document from the source document, the auxiliary document reflecting at least a portion of a structure of the source document, at least a portion of a content of the auxiliary document differing from a content of the source document.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of objects is stored only once in said database.
15. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of content attributes comprises content formatting information.
16. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of content attributes comprises content type information.
17. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of content attributes comprises document structure information.
18. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of content attributes comprises content creator information.
19. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of objects comprises a text object.
20. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of objects comprises a graphical object.
21. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of objects comprises an audio object.
22. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of objects comprises a video object.
23. A method, comprising a plurality of activities comprising:
  - via a computer-based document management module:
    - creating a source document comprising a plurality of objects, each of said plurality of objects stored in a database; and
    - automatically and individually controlling a content, a plurality of content attributes, a usage permission, and a distribution permission of

each of a plurality of objects in each of multiple documents derived from the source document.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising defining a content, a plurality of content attributes, a usage permission, and a distribution permission of each of the plurality of objects of the source document.
25. The method of claim 23, further comprising preventing modification of a content, a plurality of content attributes, a usage permission, and a distribution permission of each of the plurality of objects of the source document.
26. The method of claim 23, further comprising publishing the source document.
27. The method of claim 23, further comprising generating a derived document from the source document.
28. The method of claim 23, further comprising deriving each of the multiple documents from the source document.
29. The method of claim 23, further comprising propagating the content, plurality of content attributes, usage permission, and distribution permission of the source document to each of the multiple documents derived from the source document.
30. The method of claim 23, further comprising preventing modification of the content, plurality of content attributes, usage permission, and distribution permission in each of the multiple documents derived from the source document.
31. The method of claim 23, further comprising determining an identity of the source document from each of the multiple documents derived from the source document.

32. The method of claim 23, further comprising performing a bi-directional comparison of the source document and a derivative document derived from the source document.
33. The method of claim 23, further comprising searching across the source document and each document derived from the source document.
34. The method of claim 23, further comprising generating an auxiliary document from the source document, the auxiliary document reflecting at least a portion of a structure of the source document, at least a portion of a content of the auxiliary document differing from a content of the source document.
35. The method of claim 23, wherein each of the plurality of objects is stored only once in said database.
36. A machine readable medium storing instructions for activities comprising:
  - creating a source document comprising a plurality of objects, each of said plurality of objects stored in a database; and
  - automatically and individually controlling a content, a plurality of content attributes, a usage permission, and a distribution permission of each of a plurality of objects in each of multiple documents derived from the source document.